



The Town of Sunset Beach

700 Sunset Blvd • Sunset Beach • NC • 28468

Phone: (910) 579-6297 or (910) 579-3808 • Fax: (910) 579-1840

March 3, 2015

Dr. Braxton Davis, Director
Division of Coastal Management
400 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, NC 28557

Dear Dr. Davis:

We submitted comments on October 1, 2012 to the United States Army Corps of Engineers concerning the scope of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed terminal groin for the Town of Ocean Isle Beach. These comments are attached to this letter.

It is disappointing that our concerns have not been addressed in the current DEIS for the proposed Ocean Isle Beach terminal groin. We reiterate our previously stated concerns and express our dismay that the Town of Sunset Beach, one of the few beaches on the Eastern Coast that has never needed renourishment, is not even mentioned in this DEIS. This contravenes the opinion of numerous scientists that a terminal groin constructed in Ocean Isle Beach will place down-drift property at risk. We note that the current DEIS on page 1 states that its purpose is to “help public officials to make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment.” Nothing in the DEIS addresses the downside risks known or unknown resulting from this project.

Further, we question whether, if in fact property in Ocean Isle Beach further down from the terminal groin begins to erode, there is any requirement that the terminal groin be removed. Without this requirement, we fear that the process of installing additional groins will be instituted, thus continuing the damage farther down-drift from both the original groin and any additionally added groins.

We respectfully request that any permit granted by the Corps of Engineers include language requiring adequate funding for monitoring the environmental effects of the groin, along with a bond sufficient to mitigate damage on adjacent islands and estuaries; and requiring the removal of the groin should damage occur as a result.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Watts, Mayor
Town of Sunset Beach

Attachment: Letter dated October 1, 2012 to Ms. Emily Hughes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers